

EP 380943

DIALOG(R)File 351:Derwent WPI
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008353387

WPI Acc No: 1990-240388/*199032*

XRAM Acc No: C90-103880

New non-anticoagulant heparin derivs. - useful for treating kidney stones

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Number of Countries: 025 Number of Patents: 020

Patent Family:

| Patent No | Kind | Date | Applicat No | Kind | Date | Week |
|-------------|------|----------|-------------|------|----------|----------|
| EP 380943 | A | 19900808 | EP 90100593 | A | 19900112 | 199032 B |
| NO 9000392 | A | 19900827 | | | | 199040 |
| PT 92991 | A | 19900731 | | | | 199041 |
| CA 2007616 | A | 19900730 | | | | 199042 |
| JP 2240102 | A | 19900925 | JP 9020343 | A | 19900129 | 199044 |
| FI 9000446 | A | 19900731 | | | | 199045 |
| ZA 9000263 | A | 19901031 | ZA 90263 | A | 19900115 | 199049 |
| AU 9048858 | A | 19901025 | | | | 199050 |
| US 5104860 | A | 19920414 | US 90462462 | A | 19900109 | 199218 |
| IT 1234826 | B | 19920529 | IT 893328 | A | 19890130 | 199244 |
| IL 92912 | A | 19940624 | IL 92912 | A | 19891228 | 199427 |
| EP 380943 | B1 | 19940907 | EP 90100593 | A | 19900112 | 199434 |
| JP 94078369 | B2 | 19941005 | JP 9020343 | A | 19900129 | 199438 |
| DE 69012154 | E | 19941013 | DE 612154 | A | 19900112 | 199440 |
| | | | EP 90100593 | A | 19900112 | |
| ES 2058609 | T3 | 19941101 | EP 90100593 | A | 19900112 | 199444 |
| IE 66563 | B | 19960124 | IE 90316 | A | 19900129 | 199613 |
| FI 96425 | B | 19960315 | FI 90446 | A | 19900129 | 199615 |
| CA 2007616 | C | 19960514 | CA 2007616 | A | 19900111 | 199629 |
| NO 301719 | B1 | 19971201 | NO 90392 | A | 19900129 | 199804 |
| KR 161667 | B1 | 19981116 | KR 90266 | A | 19900111 | 200030 |

Priority Applications (No Type Date): IT 893328 A 19890130

Cited Patents: 6.Jnl.Ref; EP 347588; EP 165569

Patent Details:

Patent No Kind Lan Pg Main IPC Filing Notes

EP 380943 A

Designated States (Regional): AT BE CH DE ES FR GB GR LI LU NL SE

US 5104860 A 9

IT 1234826 B A61K-000/00

IL 92912 A C08B-037/10

EP 380943 B1 E 22 C08B-037/10

Designated States (Regional): AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR LI LU NL SE

JP 94078369 B2 C08B-037/10 Based on patent JP 2240102

DE 69012154 E C08B-037/10 Based on patent EP 380943

ES 2058609 T3 C08B-037/10 Based on patent EP 380943

IE 66563 B A61K-031/725

FI 96425 B C08B-037/10 Previous Publ. patent FI 9000446

CA 2007616 C C08B-037/10

NO 301719 B1 C08B-037/10 Previous Publ. patent NO 9000392

KR 161667 B1 C08B-037/10

Abstract (Basic): EP 380943 A

New heparin derivs. (I) have a characteristic ^{13}C NMR signal at 101.3 ppm, a specific rotatory power of +15 to +40 deg. in H_2O at 546 nm, an S content of 6-9%, a sulphate/ COOH ratio of 1.2-1.7, and a free amino gp. content of 0.4-2.1%.

(I) are prepd. by heating normal or low-molecular-wt. heparin at 75-100 deg.C in a 0.01-1 N soln. of an alkali(ne earth) metal base, opt. contg. up to 1 N of an alkali(ne earth) metal salt and a catalytic amt. of a reducing agent, for 0.5-24 hr., or by heating an aq. soln. of a heparin deriv. prepd. as described in IT Appl. 3504 A/88 at 75-100 deg.C for 0.5-24 hr.

The resulting reaction mixt. is opt. purified by ion-exchange chromatography or dialysis, and (I) is isolated by pptn. with a 1-3C alcohol at pH 7 or by freeze drying.

USE - (I) inhibit oxalate flow through cell membranes and are thus useful for treatment or prophylaxis of kidney stones. They have greatly reduced anticoagulant activity compared with normal heparin. (19pp Dwg.No.0/0)

Title Terms: NEW; NON; ANTICOAGULANT; HEPARIN; DERIVATIVE; USEFUL; TREAT; KIDNEY; STONE

Derwent Class: B04

International Patent Class (Main): A61K-000/00; A61K-031/725; C08B-037/10

International Patent Class (Additional): A61K-031/72; B01J-023/02;

C07B-061/00; C07K-015/06; C08D-000/00

File Segment: CPI

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number:

0 380 943
A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 90100593.4

(91) Int. Cl.⁵: C08B 37/10, A61K 31/725

(22) Date of filing: 12.01.90

Claims for the following Contracting States: ES
+ GR.

(30) Priority: 30.01.89 IT 332889

(43) Date of publication of application:
08.08.90 Bulletin 90/32(94) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR LI LU NL SE

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(54) New heparinic derivatives and process for their preparation.

(57) New heparinic derivatives having anticalculous activity, devoid of the anticoagulant and antithrombotic activity characteristic of the heparins, obtained by treating commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparins in a basic medium, optionally in the presence of alkali metal salts and of a reducing agent.

The heparinic derivatives obtained through this treatment show peculiar chemical-physical characteristics, in particular they present a ¹³C-NMR spectrum different from that of the starting heparins especially in the zone comprised between 102 and 92 p.p.m., with the presence of a characteristic signal at 101.3 p.p.m., a specific rotatory power at 546 nm comprised between about +15° and about +40° in aqueous solution, a sulfur content comprised between about 6% and about 9%, a sulfate/carboxyls ratio comprised between about 1.20 and about 1.70 and a content of free amino groups comprised between about 0.4% and about 2.1%.

Said heparinic derivatives can be useful in the treatment of the nephrolithiasis.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention refers to new heparinic derivatives having a modified structure, obtained by treating commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparins in a basic medium, optionally in the presence of a salt and of a reducing agent.

These new heparinic derivatives can also be obtained by heating the heparinic derivatives described in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88 filed on June 10, 1988, in a neutral or basic medium, optionally in the presence of a salt or of a reducing agent. The new heparinic derivatives possess chemical-physical properties different both from those of the commercial heparins and from those of the heparinic derivatives described in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88 and moreover they show biological activities different from those of both the classes of products above mentioned. In particular, the new derivatives do not more hold the anticoagulant activities typical of the heparinic structures, while they keep unchanged or even enhanced peculiar biological activities like, for instance, the anticalculous activity, which makes them suitable as drugs for the cure and the prevention of the nephrolithiasis. Bowyer R.G. et al, Clin. Chim. Acta, 95, 23, (1979) really demonstrated that the heparin is a strong inhibitor of the formation and of the aggregation of the crystals of calcium oxalate, while Baggio B., Int. Meeting on: "Inhibitors of crystallization in renal lithiasis and their clinical application" Bologna, September 7-9, (1987), showed that the heparin lowers the urinary excretion of the oxalate. The heparin is therefore a potential drug against the calculosis, but, due to its specific anticoagulant and antithrombotic activities, it cannot surely be used in the nephrolithiasis in general and in those calcium-oxalic in particular. The new products described in the present invention, on the contrary, can be used in the treatment of the nephrolithiasis, which are chronic diseases that require prolonged treatments with highly specific drugs devoid of side effects, because they do not more possess the anticoagulant properties typical of the heparin.

The heparinic derivatives object of the present invention possess chemical-physical properties totally different from those of the products described by Mardiguan J.S. in the European patent publication EP0133078 and by Hirano S. et al. in Conn. Tissue Res, 3, 73-79, (1975) as it is shown by the average molecular weight which remains substantially unchanged, so proving the lack of depolymerization, and by the lack of absorption at 225-230 nm in U.V. and of peaks corresponding to the resonances of the double bond in the ^{13}C -NMR spectrum, indexes of the lack of the double bond in the positions 4 and 5 of the uronic acid. Moreover they do not even show the chemical-physical properties of the compounds isolated by Sampson P. and Meyer K. in Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA 68, 2329-31, (1971) as the ^{13}C -NMR spectrum of the compounds obtained in the present invention shows unchanged the position and the intensity of the signal of the carbon atom in position 6 of the glucosamine and shows unchanged the intensity ratio between the 6-sulfated carbon atom and the 6-desulfated carbon atom that should change in case of formation of 3,6-anhydroglucosamine because of the participation of the 6-sulfated carbon atom in the formation of the anhydroderivative. Lastly, the products object of the present invention differ in the chemical-physical properties from those claimed in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88 as it is shown, for instance, by the lack of the peaks at about 53 and 54 p.p.m. in the ^{13}C -NMR spectrum.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention refers to new heparinic derivatives, to their therapeutic use in the treatment of the nephrolithiasis and to the process for their preparation by means of a chemical modification made by heating commercial heparins of various origin, or purified heparins or low molecular weight heparins in basic medium, optionally in the presence of salts and of a reducing agent.

These new heparinic derivatives can also be obtained by heating the heparin derivatives described in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88 in neutral or basic aqueous medium, optionally in the presence of salts and of a reducing agent. The reaction of chemical modification is carried out through a basic treatment at high temperature of commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparins, with a process like that described in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88. In the process object of the present invention, some fundamental parameters, mainly the temperature and/or the time, are modified in an adequate manner with respect to the process described in the above mentioned Italian patent application. More specifically, the temperature is raised and/or the time is prolonged in comparison with the previous

process so that the commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparins, through two consecutive reactions which take place in the same medium, are first transformed into one of the products claimed in the above mentioned Italian patent application and then, after a further chemical modification of them, into one of the products described in the present invention.

5 In other words, the peculiar conditions of the reaction allow not only the transformation of the starting heparin in an intermediate compound having the characteristics described in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88, but they also cause the subsequent transformation of this intermediate in an end compound having the chemical-physical characteristics described in the present invention. It is evident that, dependent upon the specific effective conditions selected, the intermediate compound can be present during the
10 reaction in more or less high concentration and also in so low concentration that it cannot be detected by means of the available chemical-physical methods. Moreover also other parameters can be used in addition to the temperature and the time; for instance, also the concentration of the base can shift the equilibrium of the reaction towards the formation of the compounds object of the present invention instead of towards the formation of the compounds claimed in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88. In fact the equilibria of
15 the reaction are clearly dependent on all the parameters of the reaction and therefore they change in accordance with the modulation of the parameters. Therefore the greater importance attributed to determine parameters, firstly the temperature and secondly the time, has to be interpreted in operative and illustrative, but not surely limiting, terms.

The reaction of chemical modification can also be carried out by using as starting products the
20 compounds obtained according to the method described in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88. In this second case, these compounds are heated in neutral or basic aqueous medium, optionally in the presence of a salt and of a reducing agent.

Lastly, the chemical reaction of modification can be carried out without isolating the above mentioned products, namely it can be directly carried out on the reaction mixture obtained according to one of the
25 processes described in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88. In this case the intermediate reaction mixture can be submitted to chemical treatments which enable to create the chemical medium necessary for the new reaction, such as, for instance, corrections of pH by means of acids, bases or ionic exchange resins, removal of salts by means of dialysis or ionic exchange resins or gel columns, addition of salts or combinations thereof.

30 The so obtained new products having modified heparinic structure, possess chemical-physical properties, like specific rotatory power and ^{13}C -NMR signals, which differ both from those of the starting compounds and from those of the products claimed in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88. In particular, they are characterized in that they show ^{13}C -NMR signals-completely different from those of the commercial heparins in the zone between 102 and 92 p.p.m., where the peaks of the anomer carbons
35 appear, and in that the peaks at about 53 and 54 p.p.m., typical of the product described in the above mentioned Italian patent application, are absent. Moreover, the new products are characterized by the lower value of the specific rotatory power (about 20° - 30° less) in comparison with the starting commercial heparins. The decrease of the specific rotatory power is still greater if referred to the compounds described in the above mentioned Italian patent application, which showed values higher than those of the starting
40 commercial heparins.

The chemical modification of the commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparins, is obtained at high temperatures and/or for long times in aqueous medium in the presence of a base, preferably of an alkali or alkali-earth metal hydroxide, optionally in the presence of a salt of an alkali or alkali-earth metal and of a reducing agent preferably sodium borohydride.

45 The bases and the salts of alkali or alkali-earth metals preferably used are those of sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium and barium.

The hydroxides of sodium, potassium and barium are preferably used as bases.

The acetates and chlorides of sodium, potassium, barium, calcium and magnesium and the sulfates of sodium, potassium and magnesium can be advantageously used as salts.

50 The commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparin is dissolved in an aqueous solution from about 0.01 N to about 1N of a base of an alkali or alkali-earth metal, preferably sodium hydroxide, optionally in the presence of a salt of an alkali or alkali-earth metal, at a concentration equal or lower than 1N, and of a catalytic amount of a reducing agent, preferably sodium borohydride. The solution is thermostated at a temperature comprised between about 75°C and the boiling temperature of the reaction mixture for a
55 period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours. At the end of the reaction, the solution is cooled at room temperature; brought to neutral pH and optionally submitted to a purification treatment, for instance to a passage through ionic exchange columns or to dialysis, and lastly the modified heparinic product is obtained by precipitation by adding from about 2 to about 4 volumes, preferably 2.5 volumes, of

an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms like, for instance, the ethyl alcohol, or by freeze-drying.

The new heparinic derivatives object of the present invention can also be obtained by using as starting compounds the heparinic derivatives obtained according to the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88, or the reaction mixture of said application.

5 In the first case, the heparinic derivative is dissolved in water or in an aqueous solution of a base of an alkali or alkali-earth metal from about 0.01 N to about 1 N, optionally in the presence of a salt of an alkali or alkali-earth metal, at a concentration lower or equal to 1N, and of a catalytic amount of a reducing agent, and the solution is thermostated at a temperature comprised between about 75 °C and the boiling temperature of the reaction mixture for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours.

10 In the second case, the reaction mixture obtained according to the said Italian patent application, optionally modified, for instance by correcting the pH of the solution, also till neutrality, by adding an acid, like hydrochloric or acetic or propionic acid, or removing the salt and the reducing agent in case present by means of dialysis or by a passage first through an anionic resin and then through a cationic resin or by gel-filtration, or appropriately combining two or more of the above mentioned treatments, is thermostated at a temperature comprised between about 75 °C and the boiling temperature of the reaction mixture for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours.

In both cases, the desired final product is isolated at the end of the reaction as previously described.

The modified heparins obtained according to the process described in the present invention show some peculiar chemical-physical characteristics that result to be completely different from those coming from the alkaline treatments known from the prior art.

20 The structural changes of the new heparin derivatives in comparison with the starting heparins were particularly shown from the position and the relative intensity of the resonances in the ¹³C-NMR spectrum, from the electrophoretic behaviour, from the decrease of the values of the specific rotatory power and from the decrease of the content of sulfur and of the sulfates/carboxyls ratio, being remained unchanged the content of the carboxyls, and from the presence of a certain amount of free amino groups.

25 The more characteristic modifications in the structure of the new heparinic derivatives were supervised through the study of the deep changes occurred in the ¹³C-NMR spectrum. These variations refer to some fixed zones of the spectrum and involve both the appearance of new peaks and the modification or the disappearance of other peaks. The shifts of the signals corresponding to the carbon 1 of the iduronic and glucosaminic units in the zone comprised between 92 and 102 p.p.m. both versus the commercial heparins and versus the products described in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88 are of special importance. Also the disappearance of the two signals at about 53 and 54 p.p.m., characteristic of the heparinic derivatives described in the above mentioned Italian patent application is of special importance.

30 In particular, a new peak at about 101.3 p.p.m. is present in comparison with the commercial heparins. The comparative examination of the ¹³C-NMR spectra of the new products and of those of the starting compounds enable to establish that some zones of the spectrum remained unchanged and therefore that determinate portions of the heparinic structure were not modified at all. In particular, the signals related to the position 6 of the sulfated or desulfated glucosaminic units were not modified. Moreover, the peaks related to the position 2 of the sulfated glucosaminic units, to the carboxyl of the iduronic acid and to the units of the glucuronic acid, which in the heparin constitutes an average of 20% of the uronic residues, are modified.

35 Moreover the new modified heparins are characterized in that they have an electrophoretic behaviour, in the barium acetate buffer 0.1 M at pH 5.8, different from that of the starting product, i.e. they have a mobility higher than that of the commercial heparins and lower than that of the heparins modified described in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88.

40 The new heparins are characterized by a sulfur content comprised between about 6% and about 9%, a sulfates/carboxyls ratio comprised between about 1.20 and about 1.70, a specific rotatory power at 546 nm comprised between about +10° and about +40° in aqueous solution, a specific rotatory power at 589 nm comprised between about +20° and about +30° in aqueous solution and a value of the free amino groups comprised between about 0.4% and about 2.1%.

The chemical modification is evaluated in different manners dependent upon the methods used in the preparation.

45 When the products claimed in the present patent application are obtained from the commercial heparins, it is necessary to compare the chemical-physical characteristic both with respect to the starting heparin and to the modified heparin claimed in the Italian patent application N. 3504 A/88 which forms as intermediate compound. In case the ¹³C-NMR is considered, it is necessary to take into account the overall changes which take place in the whole spectrum and especially in the interval of the anomer carbons between 102 and 92 p.p.m., as it appears obvious to the men skilled in the art from the examination of the

values of the resonances quoted in the examples of the experimental part of the present patent application. For sake of easiness, the changes of the specific rotatory power at 546 or at 589 nm can be taken into account in order to follow the progress of the reactions.

In fact, the values of the specific rotatory power taken at different times show characteristic changes which are dependent upon the used conditions of reaction. Generally, the $[\alpha]$ values in a first time increase and in a second time decrease, as it clearly appears from table 1, where the values of the specific rotatory power at 589 and 546 nm. measured at different times, of a 4% solution of a commercial heparin in 1 N sodium hydroxide thermostated at the temperature of 80 °C, are reported. The measure of the values or the rotatory power enables to differentiate in an evident manner the chemical modification claimed in the present patent application from that claimed in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88, as it clearly appears from tables 2 and 3. The reported values show that the modification claimed in the present invention does not take place, in a significant manner, at the lower temperature, i.e. at 60 °C, also at the longer times, while, on the contrary, the modification claimed in the above mentioned Italian patent application cannot be noticed in a significant manner at the higher temperature, i.e. at 95 °C.

Both the progressive disappearance of the peaks at about 53 and 54 p.p.m. in the ^{13}C -NMR spectrum and the decrease of the specific rotatory power can be taken into account when the heparinic derivatives object of the present invention are obtained starting from the products claimed in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88, either after their isolation or through a suitable chemical treatment of the intermediate reaction mixture. In the first case, the ratio between the sum of the integrals of the peaks at about 53 and 54 p.p.m. and the sum of the integrals of the peaks of the carbon in the position 6 of the glucosamine, at about 62.5 and 69 p.p.m., is considered. The peaks at about 62.5 and 69 p.p.m. are selected, as an arbitrary reference, because their intensity remains constant and because they are in a zone of the spectrum free from other peaks.

The value of said ratio decreases during the reaction till the annulment at the end of the reaction. Alternately, the value of the specific rotatory power, which gradually decreases until a constant value, can be taken into account, because a decrease of the rotatory power at 589 nm takes place parallelly to the lessening of the resonances at about 53 and 54 p.p.m.

The new heparinic derivatives, object of the present invention, possess a noteworthy anticalculus activity together with a strong reduction of the biological activities typical of the starting heparins. The anticalculus activity was measured by means of two specific biological tests: the determination of the transmembrane flux of the oxalate carried out according to the method described by Baggio B., et al., *Lancet* 1984, (II), 12-14 and the study of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane according to the description of Baggio B. et al., *IRCS Med. Sci.* 14, 368, (1986). The results were expressed as percent inhibition caused by the products described in the present invention versus the controls on the transmembrane flux of the oxalate and, respectively, on the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane, on erythrocytes coming from calculous idiopathic patients. The erythrocytic flow of the oxalate was determined, after 12 hours of nocturnal fasting, as follows: 10 ml of venous blood collected in heparinized test-tubes were washed three times in a solution containing 150 mM of NaCl, 10 mM of KCl and 20 mM of TRIS HCl (pH 7.4). The samples were then suspended to a 50% haematocrit in the same solution added with 10 mM of sodium oxalate. This cellular suspension was then incubated at room temperature for two hours. The subsequent steps were carried out at 4 °C. After centrifugation, the erythrocytes, suspended to a 20% haematocrit in the previously described solution, were divided in many portions which were added with some ^{14}C oxalate (8,000 - 10,000 c.p.m.). After 10, 20, 30, 60, 90, 120 minutes and 24 hours, the corresponding portion was centrifugated and the ^{14}C activity in beta counter was determined on the supernatant. The flow constant of exchange of the oxalate was evaluated from the inclination of the linear function

$$\ln(A_t - A_{\infty}) / (A_0 - A_{\infty}) = -Kt$$

where t indicates the time, K the flow constant, and A the amount of oxalate at the times 0, t and at the isotopic equilibrium (∞).

Ghosts coming from patients suffering from calcic idiopathic nephrolithiasis with abnormal transmembrane flux of the oxalate were used for the study of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane. The endogenous phosphorylation of the ghosts was obtained at 37 °C with varying times of incubation in a medium containing 100 mM of TRIS HCl pH 7.5, 8 mM of MgCl_2 , 2 mM of $(^{32}\text{P})\text{ATP}$, about 50 μg of proteins of membrane in a final volume of 125 μl . The incubation was interrupted by adding 2% sodium dodecylsulfate and 1% mercaptoethanol, followed by boiling at 100 °C for 5 minutes. Then 20 μl of a saturated solution of saccharose and 12 μl of 0.05% pyronine as tracer were added. Aliquots of about 20 μg of so treated proteins were submitted to electrophoresis on SDS-polyacrylamide gel. The gels were then coloured by means of Coomassie Blue, dried and then put on autoradiography for about 20 hours. The

autoradiograms were then read by means of a densitometer for the quantification of the incorporation of the ^{32}P to the proteic bands.

The other biological activities were determined through many tests typical of the heparins. In fact the test related to the anti-Xa factor, the APTT, the bleeding time and the protection from the experimental thrombosis were carried out. The APTT activity was determined according to the method of Larrieu M.J. and Weiland G., *Rev. Hematol.*, 12, 199, (1957), while the anti-Xa activity was determined according to the method of Yin E.T. and Wessler S., *Biochem. Biophys. Acta*, 201, 387, (1970).

Each product under examination was dissolved in plasma taken from fasted rats, subsequently scalar dilutions were made in order to obtain the concentrations provided for in the method. Ten determinations for each product were carried out for both the activities. The amount, as mcg/ml, which determines a highly significant variation in the respective test, was evaluated for each product. In particular, the activity of each product was expressed in terms of concentration, as mcg/ml, which respectively doubles the APTT time and increases of 30% the value of anti-Xa. The values obtained in the two tests confirm that the new products show a decrease of the anticoagulant power.

The bleeding time was carried out in the rat according to the method described by Dejana E. et al., *Thromb. Haemost.* 48, 108, (1982) and the result was expressed by calculating the percent of the time of prolongation of the bleeding in the rats treated with the new heparins versus the time of prolongation of the bleeding of the control rats and comparing them with the times of prolongation of the corresponding starting heparins administered at the same dosage (1 mg/Kg/i.v.).

The antithrombotic activity was evaluated by means of the test of the stasis venous thrombosis described by Reyers S. et al., *Thromb. Res.* 18, 669-674, (1980). The protection given by the new products has been evaluated, as percent, by considering equal to 100 the antithrombotic protection given by the starting products.

The obtained results showed an improvement or a substantial equivalence of the two types of heparins as it refers to the tests on the anticalculous activity. On the contrary, the anticoagulant activities, shown by the specific tests for the commercial heparins, are practically absent in the new heparins.

The values of the above mentioned biological tests are reported in the experimental section together with the chemical-physical characteristics.

These new heparinic derivatives can be useful in the treatment of the renal pathologies and particularly in the nephrolithiasis. The preferred routes of administration are those typical of the heparins, i.e. the parenteral and the subcutaneous routes under the form of aqueous sterile solutions optionally containing also some salts to make isotonic the solution and some preserving agents.

The heparinic derivatives object of the present invention can be administered also by other routes, preferably in gastroresistant pharmaceutical formulations.

Either commercial heparin, or heparins purified by treatment of commercial sodium heparin, or low molecular weight heparins obtained by depolymerization according to methods known in the art, were used to obtain the modified heparins object of the present invention. The methods of purification and of depolymerization of the used heparins are reported before the examples which further illustrate the invention, but have not to be considered as an its limitation. The determination of the sulfates/carboxyls ratio was carried out by potentiometric route. The percent determination of sulfur was carried out both with the potentiometric and the Schoeniger method. The ^{13}C -NMR spectra were carried out at 75.47 MHz with a Varian CFT-75 spectrometer by using D_2O as solvent and the sodium 3-trimethylsilylpropansulfonate as reference internal standard.

TABLE 1

| Variations of the values of the specific rotatory power at 589 and 546 nm of a 4% solution of commercial ALFA 87-163 heparin in 1 N aqueous NaOH thermostated at the temperature of 80° C. | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------|
| Time (h) | $\Delta [\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ | |
| | 589 nm | 546 nm |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15' | 37 | 32 |
| 30' | 39 | 36 |
| 45' | 41 | 38 |
| 1h | 43 | 39 |
| 2h | 14 | 14 |
| 3h | 9 | 1 |
| 4h | -11 | -12 |
| 5h | -15 | -17 |
| 6h | -19 | -19 |
| 7h | -20 | -26 |
| 8h | -25 | -30 |

TABLE 2

| Values of the specific rotatory power at 546 nm of a 4% solution of commercial ALFA 87-163 heparin in 0.225 N aqueous NaOH at different times and temperatures. | | | |
|---|--|----|------|
| Time (h) | [α] _D ²⁵ °C | | |
| | 60 | 80 | 95 |
| 0 | | | |
| 1 | 63 | 69 | 55 |
| 2 | 65 | 70 | 46 |
| 3 | 71 | 72 | 33 |
| 4 | 66 | 61 | 24 |
| 5 | 76 | 58 | 25 |
| 6 | 77 | 57 | n.d. |
| 7 | 80 | 50 | n.d. |
| 8 | 83 | 45 | n.d. |

TABLE 3

| Values of the specific rotatory power at 546 nm of a 4% solution of commercial ALFA 87-163 heparin in 1 N aqueous NaOH at different times and temperatures. | | |
|---|--|----|
| Time (h) | [α] _D ²⁵ °C | |
| | 60 | 80 |
| 0 | 60 | 60 |
| 1 | 82 | 99 |
| 2 | 93 | 74 |
| 3 | 97 | 61 |
| 4 | 93 | 48 |
| 5 | 88 | 43 |
| 6 | 89 | 41 |
| 7 | 78 | 34 |
| 8 | 83 | 30 |

Sodium heparin ALFA 87-81

50 grams of commercial sodium heparin are dissolved in 4000 ml of water and poured in about 30 minutes into a solution containing 222.4 g of calcium acetate monohydrate in 4000 ml of water, 114 ml of acetic acid and 1200 ml of ethyl alcohol, while keeping the temperature at about 8°-10°C. The obtained

- suspension is filtered after 15 hours at 5 °C and the filtrate is added with 2000 ml of ethyl alcohol and after 3 hours at 5 °C the obtained precipitate is filtered. The precipitate is then dissolved in 400 ml of water, the solution is brought to pH 7.0 by means of sodium hydroxide 1N and then it is treated with 200 ml of Dowex 50W X8, sodium form, resin and with 140 ml of water for 20 minutes. Solution and resin are transferred into a chromatographic column (\varnothing = 4 cm, h = 13 cm) containing 160 ml of the same resin. After having percolated the solution and eluted with distilled water until a total volume of solution equal to 800 ml, said solution is added with 24 g of sodium acetate trihydrate and with 2000 ml of ethyl alcohol. The precipitate is filtered and dried under vacuum obtaining 36.5 g of purified sodium heparin named ALFA 87-81 having the following chemical-physical characteristics:
- 10 ^{13}C -NMR spectrum (p.p.m.): 177.3; 104.7; 102.0; 99.5; 80.1; 78.6; 72.4; 72.0; 69.1; 60.7
 S = 10.6%
 Sulfates/carboxyls ratio = 2.20
 $[\alpha]_{546}^{20} = +54^\circ$ (C = 1% in H_2O)
 $[\alpha]_{589}^{20} = +47^\circ$ (C = 1% in H_2O)
- 15 free NH_2 = 0.0%
 APTT = 1.7 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
 Anti Xa = 20.6 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
 Prolongation of the bleeding time >200% (1mg/kg, i.v.)
 Inhibition of the transmembrane flux of the oxalate = 73.5% (C = 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)
- 20 Inhibition of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane = 24% (C = 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)
 Sodium commercial heparin ALFA 88-247
 ^{13}C -NMR spectrum (p.p.m.): 177.3; 177.1; 104.7; 102.0; 99.6; 79.2; 78.9; 78.7; 72.5; 71.9; 69.2; 62.8; 61.0; 60.7; 60.3.
 S = 10.9%
- 25 Sulfates/carboxyls ratio = 2.1
 $[\alpha]_{546}^{20} = +54^\circ$ (C = 1% in H_2O)
 $[\alpha]_{589}^{20} = +47^\circ$ (C = 1% in H_2O)
 free NH_2 = 0.27%
 APTT = 0.7 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
- 30 Anti Xa = 30.3 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
 Prolongation of the bleeding time >200% (1mg/kg, i.v.)
 Inhibition of the transmembrane flux of the oxalate = 69.2% (C = 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)
 Inhibition of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane = 26% (C = 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)
 Sodium commercial heparin ALFA 87-120
- 35 ^{13}C -NMR spectrum (p.p.m.): 177.3; 104.7; 102.1; 99.5; 78.7; 72.5; 72.0; 69.2; 62.7; 60.8.
 S = 11.4%
 Sulfates/carboxyls ratio = 2.3
 $[\alpha]_{546}^{20} = +57^\circ$ (C = 1% in H_2O)
 $[\alpha]_{589}^{20} = +55^\circ$ (C = 1% in H_2O)
- 40 free NH_2 = 0.4%
 APTT = 1.4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
 Anti Xa = 26.4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
 Prolongation of the bleeding time >200% (1mg/kg, i.v.)
 Inhibition of the transmembrane flux of the oxalate = 61.0% (C = 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)
- 45 Inhibition of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane = 23% (C = 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)
 Sodium commercial heparin ALFA 87-163
 ^{13}C -NMR spectrum (p.p.m.): 177.6; 104.8; 102.0; 99.5; 78.6; 72.4; 72.0; 69.2; 62.7; 60.8.
 S = 11.0%
 Sulfates/carboxyls ratio = 2.0
- 50 $[\alpha]_{546}^{20} = +60^\circ$ (C = 1% in H_2O)
 $[\alpha]_{589}^{20} = +51^\circ$ (C = 1% in H_2O)
 free NH_2 = 0.6%
 APTT = 2.1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
 Anti Xa = 23.4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
- 55 Prolongation of the bleeding time >200% (1mg/kg, i.v.)
 Inhibition of the transmembrane flux of the oxalate = 79.2% (C = 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)
 Inhibition of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane = 20% (C = 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)

Sodium low molecular weight heparin LMW ALFA 87-198

The sodium low molecular weight heparin LMW ALFA 87-198 was prepared by depolymerization with hydrogen peroxide in presence of cupric ions according to the method described in the International patent publication WO 86/06729. It shows the following chemical-physical characteristics:

^{13}C -NMR spectrum (p.p.m.) : 177.3; 104.87; 102.0; 99.6; 80.2; 78.6; 72.4; 71.9; 69.2; 62.7; 60.6.

Molecular weight = 4400 Dalton

S = 11.60%

Sulfates:carboxyls ratio = 2.31

$[\alpha]_{546}^{20} = +47^{\circ}$ (C = 1% in H_2O)

$[\alpha]_{589}^{20} = +43^{\circ}$ (C = 1% in H_2O)

free NH_2 = 0.0%

APTT = 8.5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$

Anti Xa = 40.6 $\mu\text{g/ml}$

EXAMPLE 1

1.8 Grams of ALFA 87-81 heparin are added to 45 ml of an aqueous solution containing 0.4 g of sodium hydroxide (0.225 N), 2.3 g of sodium acetate (0.625 N) and 10 mg of sodium borohydride.

The obtained solution is thermostated for a period of time of 3.5 hours at 95°C and then is cooled to room temperature, brought to neutrality with glacial acetic acid and added with 2.5 volumes of ethanol. The precipitate is collected on the filter, washed with a 2% solution (w/v) of sodium acetate in a 6:1 mixture of ethanol-water, then with a 6:1 mixture of ethanol-water and dried. 1.77 Grams of product are obtained whose ^{13}C -NMR spectrum shows characteristic signals at the following δ (expressed as p.p.m.) : 177.7; 104.6; 101.8; 101.3; 100.3; 98.2; 80.7; 78.9; 74.5; 73.7; 72.8; 71.4; 68.9; 62.7; 61.4; 60.7.

S = 7.35%

Sulfates:carboxyls ratio = 1.50

$[\alpha]_{546}^{20} = +26^{\circ}$ (C = 1% in H_2O)

$[\alpha]_{589}^{20} = +24^{\circ}$ (C = 1% in H_2O)

free NH_2 = 1.22%

APTT = 124.0 $\mu\text{g/ml}$

Anti Xa = 41.2 $\mu\text{g/ml}$

Prolongation of the bleeding time = 19% (1mg/kg, i.v.)

Protection against the thrombosis versus the starting product = 10% (1 mg/kg, i.v.)

Inhibition of the transmembrane flux of the oxalate = 61.0% (C = 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)

Inhibition of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane = 20% (C = 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)

EXAMPLE 2

30 Grams of ALFA 88-247 heparin are added to an aqueous solution containing sodium hydroxide (6.75 g; 0.225 N) and sodium borohydride (200 mg).

The solution is thermostated at 90°C for a period of time of 4 hours, brought to neutrality with acetic acid and dialyzed for one night with current water and for 6 hours with distilled water. The dialyzate is freeze-dried obtaining 26.4 g of product whose ^{13}C -NMR spectrum shows characteristic signals at the following δ (expressed as p.p.m.) : 177.8; 104.7; 101.9; 101.4; 98.4; 80.6; 79.8; 79.3; 79.0; 74.0; 73.5; 72.8; 71.8; 69.0; 62.7; 61.3; 61.1; 60.8. S = 7.7%

Sulfates:carboxyls ratio = 1.30

$[\alpha]_{546}^{20} = +33^{\circ}$ (C = 1% in H_2O)

$[\alpha]_{589}^{20} = +28^{\circ}$ (C = 1% in H_2O)

free NH_2 = 1.20%

APTT = 16.7 $\mu\text{g/ml}$

Anti Xa = 44.7 $\mu\text{g/ml}$

Prolongation of the bleeding time = 46% (1mg/kg, i.v.)

Protection against the thrombosis versus the starting product = 70% (1 mg/kg, i.v.)

Inhibition of the transmembrane flux of the oxalate = 74.4% (C = 100 µg/ml)
 Inhibition of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane = 28% (C = 10 µg/ml)

EXAMPLE 3

5

30 Grams of ALFA 87-120 heparin are added to 750 ml of an aqueous solution containing sodium hydroxide (6.75 g; 0.225 N). The solution is thermostated at 90° C for a period of time of 4 hours, then the
 10 reaction mixture is neutralized with acetic acid, dialyzed for 24 hours with current water and for 6 hours with distilled water. The dialyzate is freeze-dried obtaining 26.2 g of product whose ¹³C-NMR spectrum shows characteristic signals at the following δ (expressed as p.p.m.): 177.7; 104.7; 101.9; 101.4; 80.6; 79.8; 79.0;

74.8; 73.4; 72.8; 71.8; 71.3; 69.0; 62.7; 61.3; 61.0.

S = 7.7%

15 Sulfates/carboxyls ratio = 1.38

[α]_D²⁰ = +32° (C = 1% in H₂O)

[α]_D²⁰ = +30° (C = 1% in H₂O)

free NH₂ = 1.30%

APTT = 18.9 µg/ml

20 Anti Xa = 44.8 µg/ml

Prolongation of the bleeding time = 57% (1mg/kg, i.v.)

Protection against the thrombosis versus the starting product = 37.5% (1 mg/kg, i.v.)

Inhibition of the transmembrane flux of the oxalate = 65.2% (C = 100 µg/ml)

Inhibition of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane = 21% (C = 10 µg/ml)

25

EXAMPLE 4

30 10 Grams of ALFA 87-163 heparin are added to 250 ml of an aqueous solution containing sodium hydroxide (2.25 g; 0.225 N), sodium acetate (12.81 g; 0.625 N) and sodium borohydride (50 mg).

The solution is thermostated at 90° C for 4 hours and then is cooled to room temperature, neutralized with an aqueous solution of acetic acid and dialyzed for 24 hours with current water and for 6 hours with
 35 distilled water. The dialyzate is freeze-dried obtaining 7.8 g of product whose ¹³C-NMR spectrum shows characteristic signals at the following δ (expressed as p.p.m.): 177.7; 104.6; 101.9; 101.4; 98.6; 98.4; 80.3; 79.8; 79.4; 79.0; 73.8; 72.9; 69.1; 62.6; 61.3; 60.6.

S = 7.8%

Sulfates/carboxyls ratio = 1.35

[α]_D²⁰ = +37° (C = 1% in H₂O)

40 [α]_D²⁰ = +30° (C = 1% in H₂O)

free NH₂ = 2.01%

APTT = 60.1 µg/ml

Anti Xa = 82.0 µg/ml

Prolongation of the bleeding time = 18% (1mg/kg, i.v.)

45 Protection against the thrombosis versus the starting product = 12.5% (1 mg/kg, i.v.)

Inhibition of the transmembrane flux of the oxalate = 62.6% (C = 100 µg/ml)

Inhibition of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane = 19% (C = 10 µg/ml)

50

EXAMPLE 5

450 ml of an aqueous solution containing 4 g of sodium hydroxide (0.225 N), 23 g of sodium acetate (0.625 N), 100 mg of sodium borohydride and 18 g of ALFA 87-163 heparin are thermostated at 60° C for
 55 3.5 hours. Half volume of the solution is taken, cooled to room temperature, brought to neutrality with glacial acetic acid and poured into 2.5 volumes of ethanol. The precipitate is collected on the filter, washed with a 6:1 mixture of ethanol-water and dried. 8 Grams of product, similar to the heparinic derivatives described in the Italian patent application No. 3504 A/88, are obtained. The ¹³C-NMR spectrum of this

product shows characteristic signals at the following δ (expressed as p.p.m.) : 177.3; 104.3; 101.9; 99.5; 98.4; 97.2; 96.8; 79.8; 79.2; 78.6; 72.2; 71.9; 71.3; 68.9; 62.6; 60.6; 60.3; 54.2; 53.2.

Said product shows the following chemical-physical characteristics:

S = 8.25%

5 Sulfates:carboxyls ratio = 1.68

$[\alpha]_{54}^{20} = +68^\circ$ (C = 1% in H₂O)

$[\alpha]_{58}^{20} = +56^\circ$ (C = 1% in H₂O)

free NH₂ = 0.67%

10 Said product is dissolved in 150 ml of distilled water and the solution is thermostated at 75°C for 24 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the solution is brought to neutrality, added with 3 g of sodium acetate and poured into 2.5 volumes of ethanol. The obtained precipitate is washed with a 6:1 mixture of ethanol-water and dried.

6.8 Grams of product are obtained whose ¹³C-NMR spectrum shows characteristic signals at the following δ (expressed as p.p.m.): 177.2; 104.8; 101.9; 101.3; 80.8; 80.5; 79.5; 78.9; 74.6; 73.8; 73.0; 71.8;

15 71.6; 69.0; 63.2; 61.4; 60.8.

S = 6.30%

Sulfates:carboxyls ratio = 1.33

$[\alpha]_{54}^{20} = +26^\circ$ (C = 1% in H₂O)

$[\alpha]_{58}^{20} = +21^\circ$ (C = 1% in H₂O)

20 free NH₂ = 1.5%

APTT = 111.9 μ g/ml

Anti Xa = 55.5 μ g/ml

Prolongation of the bleeding time = 16% (1 mg/kg, i.v.)

Protection against the thrombosis versus the starting product = 12.5% (1 mg/kg, i.v.)

25 Inhibition of the transmembrane flux of the oxalate = 68.1% (C = 100 μ g/ml)

Inhibition of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane = 32% (C = 10 μ g/ml)

EXAMPLE 6

30

The second half volume of the solution coming from example 5 is neutralized with glacial acetic acid and thermostated at 75°C for 24 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the solution is slowly poured into 2.5 volumes of ethanol. The precipitate is collected on the filter, washed with a 6:1 mixture of ethanol-water and dried. 7.2 Grams of product are obtained whose ¹³C-NMR spectrum shows characteristic signals at the following δ (expressed as p.p.m.) : 177.3; 104.8; 101.8; 101.3; 80.8; 80.5; 79.5; 74.6; 73.8; 73.0; 71.8; 71.6; 68.9; 63.1; 61.4; 60.8.

S = 6.32%

Sulfates:carboxyls ratio = 1.36

40 $[\alpha]_{54}^{20} = +24^\circ$ (C = 1% in H₂O)

$[\alpha]_{58}^{20} = +20^\circ$ (C = 1% in H₂O)

free NH₂ = 1.49%

APTT = 101.3 μ g/ml

Anti Xa = 53.9 μ g/ml

45 Prolongation of the bleeding time = 18% (1 mg/kg, i.v.)

Protection against the thrombosis versus the starting product = 20% (1 mg/kg, i.v.)

Inhibition of the transmembrane flux of the oxalate = 78.3% (C = 100 μ g/ml)

Inhibition of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane = 26% (C = 10 μ g/ml)

50

EXAMPLE 7

55 12 Grams of low molecular weight heparin LMW ALFA 87-198 are added to 300 ml of an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide (12 g; 1.0 N), sodium acetate (15 g; 0.625 N) and sodium borohydride (60 mg). The solution is thermostated at 60°C for 4 hours, cooled to room temperature, brought to neutrality, dialyzed for 24 hours with current water and for 6 hours with distilled water. The solution is then freeze-dried obtaining 10 g of product similar to the heparinic derivatives obtained in the Italian patent application

No. 3504 A/88, whose ^{13}C -NMR spectrum shows characteristic peaks at the following δ (expressed as p.p.m.): 177.3; 104.8; 101.9; 100.3; 80.5; 80.1; 79.4; 72.7; 71.9; 69.0; 62.7; 60.6; 54.3; 53.2.

S = 8.25%

Sulfates/carboxyls ratio = 1.53

5 $[\alpha]_{54}^{20} = +63^\circ$ (C = 1% in H_2O)

$[\alpha]_{58}^{20} = +55^\circ$ (C = 1% in H_2O)

free NH_2 = 0.3%

5 Grams of this heparinic derivative are dissolved in 100 ml of distilled water and the solution is thermostated for 24 hours at 75°C , cooled to room temperature, brought to neutrality and freeze-dried
10 obtaining 3.2 g of product whose ^{13}C -NMR spectrum shows characteristic peaks at the following δ - (expressed as p.p.m.): 177.6; 104.6; 101.8; 101.3; 80.7; 78.9; 74.4; 73.6; 72.7; 71.3; 69.1; 62.7; 61.3; 60.8.

S = 6.80%

Sulfates/carboxyls ratio = 1.52

$[\alpha]_{54}^{20} = +19^\circ$ (C = 1% in H_2O)

15 $[\alpha]_{58}^{20} = +16^\circ$ (C = 1% in H_2O)

free NH_2 = 0.4%

Prolongation of the bleeding time = 19% (1 mg/kg, i.v.)

APTT = 71.2 $\mu\text{g/ml}$

Anti Xa = 71.2 $\mu\text{g/ml}$

20 Protection against the thrombosis versus the starting product = 20% (1 mg/kg, i.v.)

Inhibition of the transmembrane flux of the oxalate = 68.9% (C = 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)

Inhibition of the phosphorylation of the proteins of membrane = 20% (C = 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$)

25 Claims

1) new heparinic derivatives characterized in that they show a ^{13}C -NMR spectrum different from that of the commercial heparins particularly in the zone comprised between 102 and 92 p.p.m. with the presence of a characteristic signal at about 101.3 p.p.m., a specific rotatory power at 546 nm comprised between
30 about $+15^\circ$ and about $+40^\circ$ in aqueous solution, a sulfur content comprised between about 6% and about 9%, a sulfates/carboxyls ratio comprised between about 1.20 and about 1.70 and a content of free aminogroups comprised between about 0.4% and about 2.1%.

2) Process for the preparation of the compounds of claim 1 which comprises treating an aqueous solution containing a commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparin, with a base of an alkali or
35 alkali-earth metal at the concentration from about 0.01 N to about 1 N, optionally in the presence of a salt of an alkali or alkali-earth metal till the concentration of about 1 N and of a catalytic amount of a reducing agent, for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours at a temperature comprised between about 75°C and the boiling temperature of the reaction mixture, submitting, optionally, to
40 purification the reaction mixture by percolation through an ionic exchange column or by dialysis and isolating the products having the so modified structure either by precipitation by adding from about 2 to about 4 volumes of an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms at an about neutral pH or by freeze-drying.

3) Process for the preparation of the compounds of claim 1 which comprises treating an aqueous solution containing a commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparin, with a base of an alkali or
45 alkali-earth metal at the concentration from about 0.01 N to about 1 N, optionally in the presence of a salt of an alkali or alkali-earth metal till the concentration of about 1 N and of a catalytic amount of a reducing agent, for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours at a temperature comprised between about 40°C and about 70°C , isolating the intermediate reaction compound by purification of the reaction mixture through an ionic exchange column or by dialysis followed by precipitation by adding from
50 about 2 to about 4 volumes of an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms at an about neutral pH or by freeze-drying, thermostating an aqueous solution of said intermediate compound at a temperature comprised between about 75°C and the boiling temperature of the reaction mixture for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours, optionally purifying the reaction mixture by percolation through an ionic exchange column or by dialysis, and isolating the desired product either by precipitation
55 by adding to the solution from about 2 to about 4 volumes of an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms at about neutral pH or by freeze-drying the solution.

4) Process for the preparation of the products of claim 1 which comprises treating an aqueous solution containing a commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparin with a base of an alkali or alkali-earth

metal at the concentration from about 0.01 N to about 1 N, optionally in the presence of a salt of an alkali or alkali-earth metal till the concentration about 1 N and of a catalytic amount of a reducing agent, for a period of time comprised between about 40°C and about 70°C, bringing the reaction mixture to neutral pH, thermostating it at a temperature comprised between about 75°C and the boiling temperature of the reaction mixture for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours, optionally purifying the reaction mixture by percolation through an ionic exchange column or by dialysis and isolating the desired product either by precipitation by adding to the solution from about 2 to about 4 volumes of an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms at an about neutral pH, or by freeze-drying the solution.

5) Process according to each of claims 2, 3 and 4 wherein the base is selected among the sodium, potassium and barium hydroxides, the salt is selected among the acetates and chlorides of sodium, potassium, barium, calcium and magnesium and the sulfates of sodium, potassium and magnesium, the reducing agent is the sodium borohydride and the desired products are precipitated by means of 2.5 volumes of ethyl alcohol.

6) Use of the heparinic derivatives of claim 1 for manufacturing a medicament for the treatment of nephrolithiasis.

Claims for the following Contracting State: ES

1) Process for the preparation of heparinic derivatives showing a ¹³C-NMR spectrum different from that of the commercial heparins particularly in the zone comprised between 102 and 92 p.p.m. with the presence of a characteristic signal at about 101.3 p.p.m., a specific rotatory power at 546 nm comprised between about +15° and about +40° in aqueous solution, a sulfur content comprised between about 6% and about 9%, a sulfates/carboxyls ratio comprised between about 1.20 and about 1.70 and a content of free aminogroups comprised between about 0.4% and about 2.1%, characterized by treating an aqueous solution containing a commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparin, with a base of an alkali or alkali-earth metal at the concentration from about 0.01 N to about 1 N, optionally in the presence of a salt of an alkali or alkali-earth metal till the concentration of about 1 N and of a catalytic amount of the reducing agent, for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours at a temperature comprised between about 75°C and the boiling temperature of the reaction mixture, submitting, optionally, to purification the reaction mixture by percolation through an ionic exchange column or by dialysis and isolating the products having the so modified structure either by precipitation by adding from about 2 to about 4 volumes of an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms at an about neutral PH or by freeze-drying.

2) Process for the preparation of heparinic derivatives showing a ¹³C-NMR spectrum different from that of the commercial heparins particularly in the zone comprised between 102 and 92 p.p.m. with the presence of a characteristic signal at about 101.3 p.p.m., a specific rotatory power at 546 nm comprised between about +15° and about +40° in aqueous solution, a sulfur content comprised between about 6% and about 9%, a sulfates/carboxyls ratio comprised between about 1.20 and about 1.70 and a content of free aminogroups comprised between about 0.4 and about 2.1%, characterized by treating an aqueous solution containing a commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparin, with a base of an alkali or alkali-earth metal at the concentration from about 0.01 N to about 1 N, optionally in the presence of a salt of an alkali or alkali-earth metal till the concentration of about 1 N and of a catalytic amount of a reducing agent, for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 to about 24 hours at a temperature comprised between about 40°C and about 70°C, isolating the intermediate reaction compound by purification of the reaction mixture through an ionic exchange column or by dialysis followed by precipitation by adding from about 2 to about 4 volumes of an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms at an about neutral pH or by freeze-drying, thermostating an aqueous solution of said intermediate compound at a temperature comprised between about 75°C and the boiling temperature of the reaction mixture for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours, optionally purifying the reaction mixture by percolation through an ionic exchange column or by dialysis, and isolating the desired product either by precipitation by adding to the solution from about 2 to about 4 volumes of an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms at about neutral pH or by freeze-drying the solution.

3) Process for the preparation of heparinic derivatives showing a ¹³C-NMR spectrum different from that of the commercial heparins particularly in the zone comprised between 102 and 92 p.p.m. with the presence of a characteristic signal at about 101.3 p.p.m., a specific rotatory power at 546 nm comprised between about +15° and about +40° in aqueous solution, a sulfur content comprised between about 6% and about 9%, a sulfates/carboxyls ratio comprised between about 1.20 and about 1.70 and a content of free aminogroups comprised between about 0.4% and about 2.1% characterized by treating an aqueous

5 solution containing a commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparin with a base of an alkali or alkali-earth metal at the concentration from about 0.01 N to about 1 N, optionally in the presence of a salt of an alkali or alkali-earth metal till the concentration about 1 N and of a catalytic amount of a reducing agent, for a period of time comprised between about 40°C and about 70°C, bringing the reaction mixture to neutral pH, thermostating it at a temperature comprised between about 75°C and the boiling temperature of the reaction mixture for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours, optionally purifying the reaction mixture by percolation through an ionic exchange column or by dialysis and isolating the desired product either by precipitation by adding to the solution from about 2 to about 4 volumes of an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms at an about neutral pH, or by freeze-drying the solution.

10 4) Process according to each of claims 1, 2 and 3 wherein the base is selected among the sodium, potassium and barium hydroxides, the salt is selected among the acetates and chlorides of sodium, potassium, barium, calcium and magnesium and the sulfates of sodium, potassium and magnesium, the reducing agent is the sodium borohydride and the desired products are precipitated by means of 2.5 volumes of ethyl alcohol.

15 Claims for the following Contracting State: GR

20 1) New heparinic derivatives characterized in that they show a ¹³C-NMR spectrum different from that of the commercial heparins particularly in the zone comprised between 102 and 92 p.p.m. with the presence of a characteristic signal at about 101.3 p.p.m., a specific rotatory power at 546 nm comprised between about +15° and about +40° in aqueous solution, a sulfur content comprised between about 6% and about 9%, a sulfates/carboxyls ratio comprised between about 1.20 and about 1.70 and a content of free aminogroups comprised between about 0.4% and about 2.1%.

25 2) Process for the preparation of the compounds of claim 1 which comprises treating an aqueous solution containing a commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparin, with a base of an alkali or alkali-earth metal at the concentration from about 0.01 N to about 1 N, optionally in the presence of a salt of an alkali or alkali-earth metal till the concentration of about 1 N and of a catalytic amount of a reducing agent, for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours at a temperature comprised between about 75°C and the boiling temperature of the reaction mixture, submitting, optionally, to purification the reaction mixture by percolation through an ionic exchange column or by dialysis and isolating the products having the so modified structure either by precipitation by adding from about 2 to about 4 volumes of an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms at an about neutral pH or by freeze-drying.

30 3) Process for the preparation of the compounds of claim 1 which comprises treating an aqueous solution containing a commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparin, with a base of an alkali or alkali-earth metal at the concentration from about 0.01 N to about 1 N, optionally in the presence of a salt of an alkali or alkali-earth metal till the concentration of about 1 N and of a catalytic amount of a reducing agent, for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours at a temperature comprised between about 40°C and about 70°C, isolating the intermediate reaction compound by purification of the reaction mixture through an ionic exchange column or by dialysis followed by precipitation by adding from about 2 to about 4 volumes of an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms at an about neutral pH or by freeze-drying, thermostating an aqueous solution of said intermediate compound at a temperature comprised between about 75°C and the boiling temperature of the reaction mixture for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours, optionally purifying the reaction mixture by percolation through an ionic exchange column or by dialysis, and isolating the desired product either by precipitation by adding to the solution from about 2 to about 4 volumes of an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms at about neutral pH or by freeze-drying the solution.

45 4) Process for the preparation of the products of claim 1 which comprises treating an aqueous solution containing a commercial or purified or low molecular weight heparin with a base of an alkali or alkali-earth metal at the concentration from about 0.01 N to about 1 N, optionally in the presence of a salt of an alkali or alkali-earth metal till the concentration about 1 N and of a catalytic amount of a reducing agent, for a period of time comprised between about 40°C and about 70°C, bringing the reaction mixture to neutral pH, thermostating it at a temperature comprised between about 75°C and the boiling temperature of the reaction mixture for a period of time comprised between about 0.5 and about 24 hours, optionally purifying the reaction mixture by percolation through an ionic exchange column or by dialysis and isolating the desired product either by precipitation by adding to the solution from about 2 to about 4 volumes of an alcohol containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms at an about neutral pH, or by freeze-drying the solution.

50 5) Process according to each of claims 2, 3 and 4 wherein the base is selected among the sodium,

potassium and barium hydroxides, the salt is selected among the acetates and chlorides of sodium, potassium, barium, calcium and magnesium and the sulfates of sodium, potassium and magnesium, the reducing agent is the sodium borohydride and the desired products are precipitated by means of 2.5 volumes of ethyl alcohol.

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